

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage media control circuit for controlling inputs to and outputs from a plurality of types of storage media of different shapes and specifications,
5 comprising:

detection terminals provided for respective ones of the storage media of the plurality of types for detecting state of connection of each storage medium;
and

10 input/output terminals for inputting data to and outputting data from a storage medium whose connection has been detected by said detection terminals,

wherein the number of input/output terminals is equal to the number of input/output signals of

15 whichever storage medium has the largest number of input/output signals among the storage media of the plurality of types.

2. The circuit according to claim 1, further comprising:

20 interface controllers provided for respective ones of the storage media of the plurality of types;
and

a selector for selecting an interface controller, which is to be connected to the input/output terminals,
25 based upon signals from the detection terminals.

3. The circuit according to claim 1, further comprising an interrupt generator for generating an

interrupt signal upon detecting a change in the connection state of a storage medium from an AND output of signals from the detection terminals.

4. The circuit according to claim 1, wherein the
5 storage media of the plurality of types are memory cards using semiconductor storage elements.

5. The circuit according to claim 4, wherein the memory cards include at least one among a compact flash card, a memory stick, a smart media card, an SD
10 card, a multimedia card and an xD picture card.

6. The circuit according to claim 1, wherein the circuit is formed as a single semiconductor device.

7. A storage media control apparatus comprising a storage media control circuit and a slot unit;

15 said storage media control circuit controlling inputs to and outputs from a plurality of types of storage media of different shapes and specifications and including:

detection terminals provided for respective
20 ones of the storage media of the plurality of types for detecting state of connection of each storage medium; and

input/output terminals for inputting data to and outputting data from a storage medium whose
25 connection has been detected by said detection terminals,

the number of input/output terminals being equal to the number of input/output signals of whichever storage medium has the largest number of input/output signals among the storage media of the plurality of types, and

said slot unit being capable of having storage media of a plurality of types insertable therein and including an exclusion mechanism for limiting simultaneously inserted storage media to a single storage medium.

8. A printing apparatus comprising a storage media control circuit and a slot unit;

said storage media control circuit controlling inputs to and outputs from a plurality of types of storage media of different shapes and specifications and including:

detection terminals provided for respective ones of the storage media of the plurality of types for detecting state of connection of each storage medium; and

input/output terminals for inputting data to and outputting data from a storage medium whose connection has been detected by said detection terminals,

the number of input/output terminals being equal to the number of input/output signals of whichever storage medium has the largest number of

input/output signals among the storage media of the plurality of types, and

said slot unit being capable of having storage media of a plurality of types insertable therein and
5 including an exclusion mechanism for limiting simultaneously inserted storage media to a single storage medium,

wherein the printing apparatus is so adapted that it is possible to print image data that has been
10 stored on the storage media.

9. A storage media control circuit for controlling inputs to and outputs from a plurality of types of storage media of different shapes and specifications, comprising:

15 detection means for detecting the type of a storage medium that undergoes input/output of data;

buffers for holding input data or output data with regard to this storage medium;

first control means, which correspond to
20 respective ones of the plurality of storage media, for performing control for accessing the storage media;

selection means for selecting said buffers; and

second control means for controlling selection of said first control means and said selection means in
25 accordance with result of detection by said detection means.

10. The circuit according to claim 9, wherein said buffers are a grouping of at least one of input data buffers, output data buffers and input/output data buffers.

- 5 11. The circuit according to claim 10, wherein the output data buffers and input/output data buffers are capable of being set to a high impedance.